

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078477

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ORIGIN EA-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT SAIGON 4245 ACTION SECSTATE 4 APRIL.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, CGEN, CASC, APER, AMER, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: INQUIRIES CONCERNING US EFFORTS TO FACILITATE
MOVEMENT TO THE US

REF: STATE 76207 AND 74970; SAIGON 4238

1. FOLLOWING MAY BE HELPFUL RESPONDING INQUIRIES.

2. EMBASSY RECEIVING NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM POSTS AROUND
WORLD TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF
AMERICANS AS WELL AS FLOOD OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REQUESTING SAME. SITUATION SUCH
THAT WE ATTEMPTING REPLY ALL CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE
BY CABLE BUT IS IMPOSSIBLE REPLY OTHER INQUIRIES. WE
ARE RECEIVING NUMEROUS REQUESTS, PRIVATE AND CONGRESSIONAL,
THAT WE LOCATE SOMEONE FOR ASSISTANCE. VIRTUALLY NEVER
IS THERE A TELEPHONE AND THE ADDRESS IS USUALLY GARBLED.
WE DO NOT HAVE STAFF TO UNDERTAKE SEARCHES THROUGHOUT
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PAGE 02 STATE 078477

SAIGON BUT ARE DOING THE BEST WE CAN WITHIN LIMITED

CAPABILITY.

3. PARENTS, SIBLINGS AND OTHER RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE WOMEN MARRIED TO AMERICANS MAY NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE VIETNAMESE PASSPORTS AND EXIT VISAS. THERE IS A BAN ON TRAVEL. ALL VIETNAMESE MALES BETWEEN 17 AND 42 ARE SUBJECT TO MILITARY SERVICE AND MAY NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES LEAVE THE COUNTRY. BOYS OF FOURTEEN (COUNTED FROM JANUARY 1 OF THE YEAR OF THE FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY) ARE POTENTIALLY ELEGIBLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE AN MAY NOT DEPART.

4. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS IN CHAOS, WITH THOUSANDS OF PASSPORT APPLICANTS WHO WILL BE UNSUCCESSFUL BUT ARE CLOGGING THE MACHINERY. NONETHELESS, PASSPORTS ARE BEING ISSUED TO THE WIVES, CHILDREN AND FIANCEES OF AMERICANS.

5. THE FILING OF PETITIONS BY AMERICAN CITIZENS IS IRRELEVANT TO THE VIETNAMESE RELATIVE'S EMIGRATION. EMBASSY QUITE PREPARED TO ISSUE IMMIGRANT VISAS BASED ON APPROVED PETITIONS, BUT OUR IMMIGRANT VISA WILL BE OF NO VALUE TO APPLICANT IN DEPARTING VIETNAM. HAVE SEVERAL HUNDRED SUCH PETITIONS ON FILE NOW.

6. IT IS PROBABLE THAT ALL ORPHANS ALREADY PLACED WITH AMERICAN FAMILIES WILL BE FLOWN OUT IN AIRLIFT IN NEXT FEW DAYS. POSSIBLE EXCEPTION MAY BY THOSE WHOSE ADOPTIONS ARE BEING HANDLED PRIVATELY BY LOCAL ATTORNEY REPRESENTING ADOPTIVE FAMILY; HOWEVER, IT PROBABLE THAT EVEN THESE CHILDREN, IF RELEASED TO ONE OF THE LICENSED VOLAGS, WILL BE AIRLIFTED WITH THAT AGENCY'S CHILDREN.

7. NON-ORPHAN VIETNAMESE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS OR VIETNAMESE LIVING IN THE US ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PASSPORTS.

8. THE VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE IN THE UNITED STATES, REGARDLESS OF THE PERSON'S STATUS IN THE US, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PASSPORTS.

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PAGE 03 STATE 078477

9. THERE NO CURRENT INDICATION OF ANY RELAXATION IN THE TRAVEL BAN.

10. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CIRUCLATE ALL OR PART OF ABOVE TO ALL POSTS AND TO US MILITARY COMMANDS.

11. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THERE LITTLE HOPS OF THIS, REDUCTION IN FLOOD OF CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE WOULD

ENABLE US DEVOTE INFINITELY MORE TIME TO HANDLING CASES
AND GETTING JOB DONE. DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE THAT
MERELY PULLING AND READING FILE TO DETERMINE STATUS FOR
REPLY SEVERELY LIMITS ABILITY ISSUE VISAS AND APPROVE
PETITIONS. WE NOW SIX DAYS BEHIND IN ANSWERING
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES.
MARTIN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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